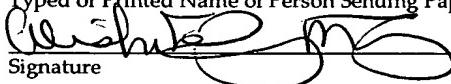




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Alisha Flintroy-Mathis  
Typed or Printed Name of Person Sending Paper or Fee  
  
Signature

May 5, 2006  
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of ) Confirmation No.: 9828  
Ricardo Alexander Gomez )  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ) Art Unit: 3739  
PROTECTING THE DISTAL LENS OF ) Examiner: M. J. Kasztejna  
ENDOSCOPES )  
Serial No.: 10/826,869 )  
Filed on: April 16, 2004 ) (Docket No. 5285-0002)

Hartford, Connecticut, May 5, 2006

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION  
ACCOMPANYING RCE

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action dated April 4, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Claim Amendments** begin on page 2.

**Amendments to the drawings** begin on page 5.

**Remarks** begin on page 6.